April-June 1998 Volume 23, Number 2

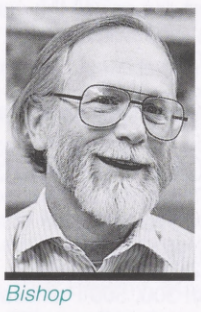
A summary of recent news stories from the University of California San Francisco

UCSF

To Our Neighbors

Regents name Bishop UCSF chancellor

Nobel laureate J. Michael Bishop, one of the world's foremost medical researchers and a leading advocate for science education and increased public investment in scientific research, was named eighth chancellor of UCSF, effective July 1.



Bishop

"He brings to the position international renown and a sterling record of accomplishment in research," said UC President Richard C. Atkinson. "He also is an inspirational and award-winning teacher, an eloquent spokesman for the University, and a highly effective fund-raiser. Dr. Bishop's unique strengths and insight assure that UCSF will continue to excel as one of the world's premier health sciences centers."

Although he said it was "too early to speculate" on campus initiatives he would like to undertake, Bishop said that the academic mission of the campus is of prime importance to him. He also said that he will need to study up on the UCSF Stanford merger. "My main concern will be that it doesn't have an adverse impact," he said.

Bishop spoke enthusiastically about the new Mission Bay campus but also talked about the difficulties it presents. "The biggest challenge is not Mission Bay, per se, but the fact that we're dividing our forces," Bishop said. "UCSF is world renowned for its research staff. To divide our forces is a threat."

Bishop said he will maintain a laboratory, which he was encouraged to do by the Regents and his colleagues. "It will be a source of inspiration and solace," he said. "I'm giving up a major part of my life. I hope to deal with it in part by using the position of chancellor to talk to the public about science."

Bishop shared the Nobel Prize in 1989 with UCSF Professor Harold E. Varmus, who has been director of the National Institutes of Health since 1994. They won the award in physiology or medicine for discovering that normal cells contain genes that can cause cancer if they malfunction. Their discovery is widely credited with sparking a revolution in cancer research.

Bishop will continue his work on the National Cancer Advisory Board, to which President Clinton recently appointed him as chair. "It's a way for me to continue to fulfill my passion for cancer research," he said. "I think it's a good way for me to represent the University in the Beltway."

'Smart bomb' breast cancer therapy

UCSF researchers have received approval from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop a less toxic breast cancer therapy that may also prove to be more efficient at directly targeting cancer cells.

The UCSF team has found a way to combine liposomes — small, synthetic particles that are used to carry potent anti-cancer drugs — with antibodies that can recognize and bind to cancer cells.

The combination of the two — called immunoliposomes — have been compared to the Gulf War's "smart bombs" in their ability to selectively target and kill cancer cells, while avoiding normal cells.

"We have completed 'proof of concept' studies and have shown that this cures tumors in mice," said John Park, UCSF assistant adjunct professor of medicine.

One of the major problems with standard chemotherapy drugs is they kill both cancer and normal cells, resulting in harmful and often debilitating side effects to patients.

By putting chemotherapy in liposomes and adding the targeting capability of a specially developed antibody, the drugs go directly to the cancer cells without causing more toxic side effects.

"The antibodies bind to the cancer cell, enter it and release the drugs there," Park said. The immunoliposomes tested at UCSF have included both an antibody developed by biotechnology firm Genentech Inc. of South San Francisco and a new antibody developed by James Marks, associate professor of anesthesia and pharmaceutical chemistry at UCSF.

Clinical trials may start within a year.

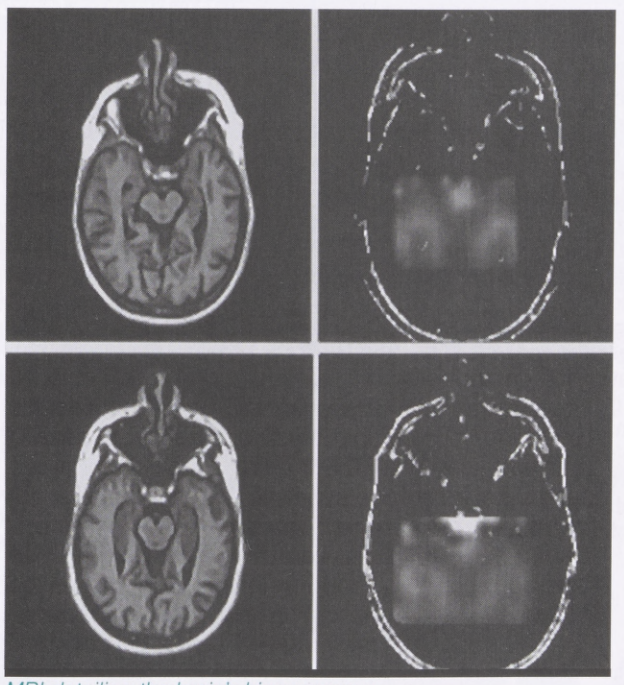
Imaging may allow early and accurate Alzheimer's diagnosis

New research suggests that by using non-invasive magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), doctors can examine two alterations in the brain's hippocampus, the center of memory and cognitive thinking, and use the results to increase the likelihood of an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's.

The researchers used MRI to track the presence of amino acid N-acetyl asparate (NAA), which is contained in neurons in the brain's hippocampus and whose function is unknown, and to measure the volume of hippocampal tissue.

The research team, headed by Michael W. Weiner, director of the magnetic resonance unit at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center and a professor of medicine, radiology and psychiatry at UCSF, was able to correctly classify 90 percent of patients suspected of having Alzheimer's and 94 percent who did not have the disease. When used separately, neither hippocampal NAA tracking nor volume measurements could correctly classify more than 80 percent of Alzheimer's patients or 75 percent of patients in the unaffected group. Weiner said a study using many more people is under way.

"In time, the MRI approach will lead to testing with two consequences. First, it will allow diagnosis for Alzheimer's to eliminate uncertainty to a high degree. Second, it will allow us to track neuron loss non-invasively," he said.



MRI detailing the brain's hippocampus

Alzheimer's is the third-leading cause of death among Americans, behind cancer and heart disease. Although it is incurable and irreversible, Vitamin E, indocin and post-menopausal estrogens have been suggested by others to slow progression or development of Alzheimer's.

'Good' salts, 'bad' salts

The salts in fruits and vegetables may lower blood pressure and reduce the likelihood of stroke, while the chloride in table salt may raise blood pressure, according to a study published by UCSF researchers.

The study concludes that it is not necessarily the sodium in table salt that should be blamed for dangerously boosting blood pressure. In many cases the culprit may be the chloride component of salt. In contrast to table salt, potassium salts that do not contain chloride, such as are found in fruits and vegetables, can lower blood pressure and reduce the likelihood of strokes.

About half of individuals with high blood pressure are salt sensitive, according to Morris, meaning that sodium chloride can worsen their condition.

"The blood pressure of some individuals is likely to be sensitive to the combination of sodium and chloride in table salt, but in others, blood pressure is probably sensitive to chloride even when it is not combined with sodium," said R. Curtis Morris Jr., who led the study and who directs the National Institutes of Health–sponsored General Clinical Research Center at UCSF.

Structure of dentin revealed

Using an X-ray microscope developed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to analyze ceramic components used in jet engines, researchers at UCSF's School of Dentistry are probing the intricate structure of dentin, the porous material that lies under the hard enamel of teeth.

The X-ray tomographic microscope (XTM) allows the dental researchers to observe structures in the dentin as small as two micrometers — about the size of a human cell. Atomic force microscopy (AFM) provides an even closer view.

Researchers seek to understand dentin's properties in order to find methods that will create a more permanent bond between the tooth and the plastic-based fillings used to repair most cavities.

"We want to make the polymer (plastic-based) and ceramic materials as strong and long-lasting as metal," explained Sally J. Marshall, UCSF professor of restorative dentistry. She and Grayson W. Marshall Jr., UCSF professor of restorative dentistry, worked with John H. Kinney, senior research scientist at Lawrence Livermore.

The research team will next examine how tooth decay progresses in different areas of dentin and how age affects the process of tooth disease.

Teetotalers not at greater risk

People who abstain from drinking alcohol are not at any greater risk for premature death than those who are light drinkers, according to a team of researchers in the UCSF School of Nursing.

"Our findings cast some doubt on the conclusions of other research that there are protective effects from light or moderate drinking," said principal investigator Kaye Fillmore, professor in the department of social and behavioral sciences of the School of Nursing.

Analysis showed that several risk factors for premature mortality — other than drinking — were more prevalent among ex-drinkers than long-term abstainers. Adult men who are ex-drinkers are more likely to be heavier smokers, depressed, unemployed and of lower social class. Among women, ex-drinkers are more likely to be heavier smokers, in poorer health, not religious and unmarried.

These personal and lifestyle characteristics may "confound the relationships found between drinking and mortality risk," according to Fillmore. "When these factors are statistically accounted for, abstainers of either type are not at higher risk for premature mortality than light drinkers."

More news for you
on the back page

What's happening

To Our Neighbors
April–June 1998
A quarterly calen
events at UC San

Special Events

EARTH DAY FAIR

April 24: UCSF's Water, Energy and Recycling Awareness Programs host the campus' celebration of Earth Day at UCSF's second annual Earth Fair in Millberry Gymnasium from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Starting with a parade, the event will include an electric car exhibit; booths and displays by conservation-oriented vendors and organizations; a showcase of children's artwork addressing the issue "What can we all do to help save the earth?"; and raffle prize drawings, music and food. Back by popular demand, Wise Fool Puppet Intervention, a performing "community of puppets and stilt walkers," will lead the kick-off parade down Parnassus Avenue. Sponsored by UCSF Facilities Management. Open to the public. For more information about Earth Fair 1998 or about the Water and Energy Awareness and Recycling Awareness Programs, call 502-8350, or e-mail hydrowatt@fm.ucsf.edu.

The Wise Fool Puppet Intervention leads the Earth Day parade.

BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM

April 30: The UCSF Cancer Center has provided a dynamic focal point for UCSF's expanding activities in cancer research and patient care. Research and clinical programs in breast cancer serve as a model for the Cancer Center. The UCSF Cancer Center's second annual daylong symposium will be held in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Scientists and researchers from UCSF, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the National Cancer Institute will be making presentations on breast cancer-related issues including genetics, imaging technology and shared decision making. The symposium will also be broadcast to remote sites at UCSF/Mount Zion, VA Medical Center and San Francisco General Hospital. Call Amy Akbarian at 476-9727 for information.

MAKING REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES BEFORE REACHING LIMITATIONS

May 2: The UCSF department of psychiatry and the office of continuing medical education at UCSF present a spring symposium on reproductive choices, held from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Hotel Westin St. Francis, San Francisco. This symposium is designed for primary care physicians, women's health specialists, mental health practitioners and women facing reproductive choices. Lectures will focus on the factors impacting the importance of maternal age and assisted reproductive technologies, and examine the ethical and psychological ramifications of reproductive decisions. Discussion groups will address special areas such as lesbian parenting, deciding to be child-free, and the adoption experience, and allow participants to share their own experience. Call 476-5808 for registration information.

ADDICTION CENTER INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM

May 7 & 8: Leading scientists in the field of addiction research will discuss their work in a symposium to mark the inauguration of the UCSF Center for the Neurobiology of Addiction. Talks are held Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. in Room 301 in the Health Sciences West Building on the Parnassus Campus and are free and open to the public. The UCSF Center for the Neurobiology of Addiction brings together 20 core faculty, leading cellular and molecular neuroscientists at UCSF, in addition to researchers from the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the UCSF-affiliated San Francisco General Hospital, to focus their collaborative energies on understanding the basic biology of addiction. The center is believed to be the first research enterprise of its kind in the country. For more information, call 476-7878.

Community Meetings

Mount Zion Community Group. UCSF/Mount Zion hosts meetings to keep neighbors informed of activities of interest and to listen to their concerns. The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m., April 28, Executive Board Room, second floor, UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, 1600 Divisadero. Call 476-3206 for more information.

Women's Programs

The UCSF Women's Resource Center sponsors workshops and events for the campus community. Call 476-5222 to register or for more information. Or check out the center's website at http://itsa.ucsf.edu/~wrc

April 25: **Self-Defense For Women, Level II,** 1:30-5:30 p.m., Millberry Union Fitness Center Studio. Brush up on your self-defense skills. This class reviews material covered in Level I and introduces intermediate practice of blocks, counter strikes, and releases from pins and chokes on the ground. Learn how to defend yourself against knife and gun attacks. Anyone who has attended a Level I training or who has obtained permission of the instructor may attend. Open to women of all abilities. Instructor is Nina Haft. Cost is $25/UCSF affiliates and seniors; $50/general public. Pre-registration is required.

May 4: **Wilma Mankiller,** the former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, will speak at noon in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. The first woman principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, the second largest tribe in the United States, Mankiller has overcome not only the poverty and dislocation of her youth but also physical ailments that have haunted her as an adult. These obstacles have not stopped Mankiller from becoming a civil rights leader, even after her term as principal chief ended in 1995. She is a strong advocate of tribal self-sufficiency and works with governmental agencies on American Indian issues. Known for her witty and captivating storytelling, Mankiller's talk will explore the connections between race and gender that inspire people to work together for social justice.

May 16: **De-Mystifying Your Home's Plumbing System,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., UCSF Women's Resource Center, 100 Medical Center Way, G-Level. Learn how to turn on/off gas and water; clean drains; and repair dripping faucets, running toilets and leaking p-traps. Instructor Christina Bertea is a union-trained plumbing contractor who designs and installs residential and commercial plumbing and hydronic heating systems. Cost is $40-60, sliding scale.

Arts & Entertainment

Cole Hall Cinema. Arts & Performances shows films Thursdays and Fridays in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Tickets may be purchased at the door only and are $3.50/general public; $3/UCSF staff/non-UCSF students; $2.50 UCSF students/MU members; $2/children 14 and under. Box office opens one-half hour before showtime. One discounted ticket per ID only. Special $1 off validated parking at the UCSF Public Parking Garage at 500 Parnassus. The spring schedule opens April 2 and includes *Ice Storm, Amistad, Kundun, Wag the Dog, Deconstructing Harry, Jackie Brown, Enter the Dragon* and *Operation Condor.* Call 476-6932 for cinema information.

Spring Concerts. Millberry Programs & Services presents several spring concerts, open to the public. Call 476-6932 for more information.

April 24: **Vocal Chords Annual Spring Concert,** 8 p.m., MU Conference Center. Enjoy this free concert with the all-student a cappella choir. Co-sponsored by ASUCSF.

May 8: **UCSF Orchestra,** 7:30 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore St. Enjoy an evening with the fabulous UCSF Orchestra, featuring mezzo soprano Erin Neff. Tickets are sold at the door. Cost is $3/UCSF students; $5/UCSF staff; $7/general public.

May 16: **UCSF Gospel Choir,** 8 p.m., location to be announced. Join the gospel choir at UCSF for some joyful noise. Cost is $5; tickets sold at the door.

May 26: **The 6th Annual Grand Celebration Benefit Concert,** 7 p.m., Florence Gould Theater, Palace of the Legion of Honor, 34th Ave. at Clement. Come back to the Legion in the beautiful theater to hear UCSF's finest jazz and classical musicians. Proceeds benefit the UCSF Piano Group's Save the Steinway Fund. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by mail after April 20. Call to request an order form.

Recreation

Millberry Programs & Services. This service offers hundreds of classes, clinics and workshops to keep the bodies and minds of both adults and children motivated, stimulated and fascinated. Course topics include swing dance, self-defense, cooking, swimming and yoga. The Millberry Fitness Center, open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., is open to the public for club membership in addition to faculty, staff and students at UCSF. For more information or to receive a new catalog of program offerings, call 476-1115.

Outdoors Unlimited. A cooperative resource center for outdoor recreation and adventure rents cabins on the south and north shores of Lake Tahoe, plus an array of equipment for camping and recreation. OU offers classes in sea kayaking, white-water rafting, backpacking, first aid and CPR,organized camping and sailing trips as well as other outdoor activities. For more information, visit the website at www.outdoors.ucsf.edu/ou or call the center at 550 Parnassus (beneath the campus library) at 476-2078.

Brown Bag Lectures

UCSF Public Service Programs, part of Public Affairs, offers free weekly lectures on Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m. in Health Sciences West, Room 300, 500 Parnassus (P); monthly on Thursdays in Room 125, UCSF/Mission Center Building (MCB), 1855 Folsom; and monthly on Tuesdays in Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion (MZ), 1600 Divisadero. Call 476-4394 for information.

April 1: Zach Hall, associate dean, research and professor, physiology, presents **Mission Bay: The Challenge of Building a New Campus** (P).

April 8: Ellen Heller, director, WomenCare Mental Health Clinic and associate adjunct professor, psychiatry, presents **Depressed or Am I Just Tired?** (P)

April 15: Ernest H. Rosenbaum, clinical professor, medicine, UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, presents **Can Colon Cancer Be Prevented?** (P)

April 16: Jnani Chapman, stress management specialist, Heart Disease Reversal Program, UCSF/CPMC, presents **Tools to Lessen Your Stress** (MCB)

April 21: Mack Roach III, associate professor, radiology oncology, UCSF/Mount Zion, presents **Controversies Regarding Prostate Cancer** (MZ)

April 22: John J. Berger, author and environmental science and policy consultant, presents **Message of Hope About Clean Energy** (P)

April 29: Saul E. Rosenberg, associate clinical professor, psychiatry and psychologist, San Francisco, presents **Overcoming Writer's Block** (P)

May 6: Fernando Quintero, director, Newswatch Project, presents **Media Images of Mexican-Americans and Other Latinos** (P)

May 13: Shirley Fong-Torres, Wok Wiz Chinatown Tours and Cooking Center, presents **How to Stir-Fry a Dream Job** (P).

May 19: Sandy Bright, owner, Bright Ideas, and organizing and time management consultant, presents **Let's Get Organized** (MZ)

May 20: Kate M. Garay, assistant clinical professor, physiological nursing, presents **Trauma Recovery: Optimal Healing After Severe Injury** (P)

May 21: Jane Mahakian, elder care specialist, child and elder care referral service, presents **Everything You Need to Know About Medicare and Medi-Cal** (MCB)

May 27: Benjamin Libet, professor emeritus, physiology, presents **Do We Have Free Will?** (P)

June 3: Allan V. Giannini, clinical professor, pediatrics and consultant, allergy clinic, presents **Allergies and Asthma in 1998** (P)

June 10: Russel K. Laros Jr., professor, and Tekoa L. King, assistant professor, obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, present **Prenatal Education in the Age of Multimedia** (P)

June 16: David M. Jablons, assistant professor in residence, surgery, presents **Lung Cancer: What You Need to Know** (MZ)

June 17: Anthony M. Pogrel, chair and professor, oral maxillofacial surgery, presents **Facial Appearance: What is Normal? Who Says So?** (P)

June 18: Alexandra Campe, staff and compensation analyst, human resources, presents **Resume Writing in the '90s** (MCB)

June 24: Kirk C. Wilhelmsen, assistant professor, neurology, UC Gallo Clinic &

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Research Center, presents **Genetic Exploration of Addition** (P)

Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences

The Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences and the Millberry Fitness Center offer a Friday lecture series on alternatives in health care and healing. Lectures are free and held Fridays noon-1 p.m. in the Health Sciences West Building, Room 300, 513 Parnassus. Call 584-4416 for information.

April 17 **Myth, Medicine and Meaning**
April 24 **Get Healthy, Stay Healthy**
May 1 **Energy Medicine: East & West**
May 3 **Homeopathy for Psychological Problems**
May 8 **The Healing Power of Yoga**
May 15 **The Near Death Experience as a Spiritual Initiation**
May 29 **The Application of Indigenous Healing Practices in Hospital and Clinical Settings**
June 5 **The Alexander Technique**
June 12 **Exercise Your Options: Physical Exercise as Complementary**
June 19 **Find the Role of Attention in Healing**

Campus Tours

Public Service Programs provides free campus tours beginning at 1 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Meet in the Medical Sciences lobby, 513 Parnassus Ave. Call 476-4394 for more information and appointments.

Hospital Volunteer Program

Volunteer Services acquaints prospective volunteers with opportunities to lend a helping hand at the medical centers at UCSF and UCSF/Mount Zion. For dates, times and locations or orientation schedules for Parnassus, call 476-1196. Call 885-7353 for an orientation schedule at UCSF/Mount Zion.

Aging Education

The goal of The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging Community Health Education series is to make available to community seniors high-quality, cutting-edge information presented by clinical experts at UCSF, which will enable attendees to become informed consumers of health care and to be proactive about their own health and well-being. The workshops are free, but pre-registration is required as seating is limited. For information, call the Center on Aging education office at 750-5342.

May 2: **Healthy Hearts,** Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California

June 6: **Breaking the Silence: A Workshop for Women on Urinary Incontinence,** Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California

UCSF

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A tumor the size of a small lemon was removed from the base of her skull.

It started as a nasty, stabbing headache.

Not the normal kind of tension pain or even migraine. "It felt like a stake was being driven through my head," says Jamie Strysko, a 38-year-old San Jose homemaker.

The piercing headaches began in August of last year. Sometimes they would last for hours, sometimes for days. Aspirin, seemingly by the handfuls, did not help. Doctors first diagnosed them as "cluster headaches," which come in tormenting barrages but eventually go away. For Jamie, they did not.

Other symptoms occurred as her condition became more of a puzzle. She stopped menstruating and quickly gained 12 pounds in October. "Until the headaches, I hardly ever was sick — not even a cold in three years," says Jamie. "All of a sudden, I felt my body was breaking down."

Until the headaches, she worked out daily at the YMCA, where she was on its board of managers, and could keep up with her now 5-year-old son, Kajetan. By the winter holidays, sight in her left eye had started to go bad, peripheral vision was cloudy at best.

She already had undergone a battery of medical tests, but more were needed. And in January, an MRI revealed a large mass beneath her skull, above the left side of the forehead. "I actually felt relieved," says Jamie. "After going through all of this, I finally knew the reason. My husband (Mark) and my friends asked 'how can you be so happy to have a brain tumor?'"

Throughout the painful and frustrating ordeal Jamie maintained a positive attitude. She felt all along that once the illness was diagnosed, she would beat it.

The good news was that the tumor was a benign meningioma, which will often compress but rarely invade the brain. These slow-growing tumors, which originate in the protective lining of the brain or spinal cord, make up about 20 percent of all intracranial tumors and are more common in women than in men. In Jamie's case, the tumor blossomed in a small cavity above the sinus and at the base of her skull. Although contained, the tumor was pressing the optic nerve, affecting Jamie's vision, and the pituitary gland, which halted flow of a key hormone and her menstruation cycle. Meningiomas are usually curable and removed by surgery, but Jamie's would be difficult because the tumor had wrapped around the internal carotid artery.

"I was advised to seek the best surgeon possible," says Jamie. "The radiologist said that teaching hospitals have the newest technology and best people for my type of problem. My husband and I were willing to go anywhere in the US."

After consulting with many people — including her sister in North Carolina who talked to several medical experts there — the consensus was that the best place for Jamie was only 50 miles away from her home. The UCSF Medical Center, which is part of UCSF Stanford Health Care, is a national referral center for patients with skull-based tumors, and in mid-February, Jamie met with Mitchel Berger, chair of the UCSF department of neurological surgery and director of the internationally recognized Brain Tumor Research Center.

"There was instant camaraderie," says Jamie. "I felt that Dr. Berger was not only knowledgeable, but also compassionate. He explained everything to me in terms that I could understand, and he expressed a sense of urgency." This was important, says Jamie, that a renowned surgeon who had operated on hundreds of tumors was giving hers special attention. Berger scheduled surgery for Monday, February 23.

The day before, a team of UCSF "neurointerventional radiologists" plugged blood vessels to block blood flow to the tumor site and give the surgeons a clear area in which to operate. But even the most skilled and experienced surgeons rely on today's most sophisticated technology. Berger, a national expert in using brain mapping methods to locate sensitive areas of the brain and to guide surgery, first probed areas near Jamie's tumor with a pen-sized device. He marked with "stickers" those spots with critical electrical activity — areas that control motor function and senses or that could trigger seizures — and another high-tech tool scanned the brain. An image, viewable on an operating room TV monitor, would act as a road map and show hot spots — as precise as one millimeter from the tumor — that the surgical knife should avoid.

The UCSF team, which included neurovascular surgeon Michael Lawton, then carefully stripped away a firm rubbery tumor, about the size of a small lemon, from Jamie's carotid artery. The whole procedure lasted six hours.

"We were also able to free up the optical nerve," says Berger. "Without the surgery, she would have gone blind."

The day after the operation, Jamie, although looking every bit like someone who had undergone brain surgery, was already feeling the results. "The headaches were completely gone. The pain had been lifted right out of there," she says.

After a four-day stay in the hospital, Jamie was back home. One month after her surgery, she is feeling well enough to return to full-time parenting and getting back to the "Y" for regular exercise. She also has a new outlook. "In the last year, I spent a lot of time being angry and sick, and I couldn't really focus on the things I wanted to," says Jamie. "I've decided now to seek happiness every day."

In many meningioma cases, surgery does not remove the entire tumor, and radiation therapy often is required to complete the job. But so far, there are no signs that parts of Jamie's tumor remain. The ability to navigate the brain and allow surgeons to trim away the tiniest parts of the tumor may spare her from inconvenient and costly follow-up procedures.

Just two week after her surgery, Jamie painted her remodeled bathroom walls. When it came to painting the thin red lines, her hand — and eye — were steady.

—Andy Evangelista

Tom Wachs

For more information, call the UCSF neurological surgery service at 476-8595.

To Our Neighbors
April–June 1998

UCSF names Nobel laureate its eighth chancellor

Researchers test smart bomb therapy to treat breast cancer

UCSF study finds alcohol abstainers not at greater risk

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To Our Neighbors

New cancer center planned for UCSF/Mount Zion

The University of California Board of Regents has approved financing for the construction of a long-awaited clinical cancer center building at the UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center.

The five-story, 88,000-square-foot building will be at the corner of Sutter and Divisadero streets in San Francisco and will house clinical cancer programs of UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care. The new facility will include a state-of-the-art radiation therapy center, a patient-oriented breast care center, mammography, chemotherapy and doctors' offices.

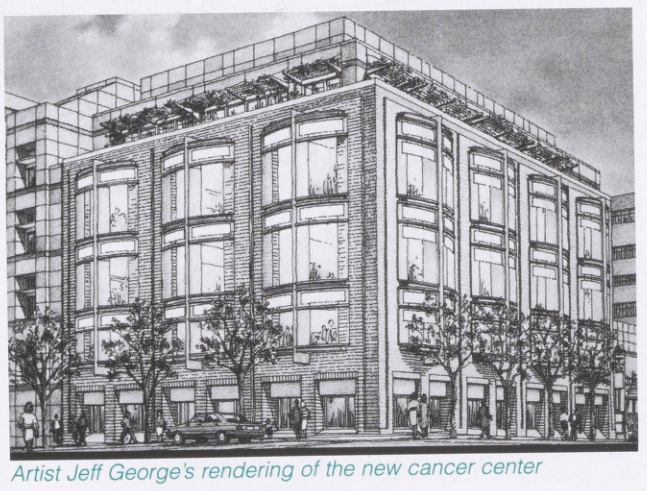
The Regents approved bond financing of $33 million for the UCSF Cancer Center building at their February 19 meeting in San Francisco. The new building has a total project cost of $42.5 million, which includes $10 million to be obtained through private fund-raising.

Bond financing for the new UCSF/Mount Zion building is part of a $338.4 million capital construction and debt restructuring bond package for UCSF Stanford Health Care. The UC Regents and the Stanford University Board of Trustees have both approved the bond package.

"The building of the cancer center, done in parallel with complementary efforts at Stanford, is a major step toward integrating cancer research and the clinical environment," said Frank McCormick, director of the UCSF Cancer Center.

Long known as a major center for basic cancer research, UCSF is working to enhance clinical research by arranging to provide access to both clinical care and trials under one roof. UCSF opened its new cancer research building in 1997 and is continuing to recruit nationally recognized cancer researchers for the facility. The goal is to become the first National Cancer Institute (NCI)–designated comprehensive cancer center in Northern California. Such a designation would allow the center to receive more grants and conduct more clinical trials to serve patients in Northern California.

Groundbreaking for the new building will take place by June 1 and construction should be completed by the end of 1999. Planners are studying a proposal for a two-story atrium that will be the focal point of the entry and also will function as a new entry for the entire UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center.



Artist Jeff George's rendering of the new cancer center

Mental health care offered to women in community

About 20 percent of all women experience an episode of depression at least once in their lifetime, according to Ellen Haller, director of WomenCare Mental Health Clinic, a new clinical service at UCSF.

"Seventy percent of psychiatric outpatients are women and depression is twice as common in females as it is in males," Haller said

Because of the significant need for specialized mental health care for women, the UCSF department of psychiatry established WomenCare Mental Health Clinic as a clinical, educational and research service dedicated to delivering gender-specific mental health care to female patients.

The WomenCare Clinic offers patients individual and group therapy treatments. The clinic plans to sponsor public educational seminars on women's health issues such as stress, depression, and balancing careers and personal relationships.

At present, the clinic has a caseload of approximately 60 to 70 women, and the majority belong to managed health care plans that typically do not cover long-term mental health treatments. Haller notes that HMOs generally focus on short-term and crisis intervention therapy and often cover only 6 to 10 sessions. One of WomenCare's services is educating patients about various insurance plans so they are informed about mental health care options that are most conducive to their needs.

Depression and PMS are two of the most common problems among WomenCare patients, Haller noted. "I want women to know how to get help for these disorders and that these are treatable illnesses."

WomenCare opened in July 1997 at the UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Office Building at 2330 Post St. and is a service of the UCSF psychiatry department. For more information call 353-7273.